fallen syndicate

PRESENTS

eighth

BY KAWACHI IZUMI

RAWS
KUMA CHAN
TRANSLATING
CASTELLAN
PROOFREADING
APEROST
CLEANING
ZACK
REDRAWING
ZACK
TYPESETTING
NEIRA EEN
QUALITY CHECKING
RUKAYE

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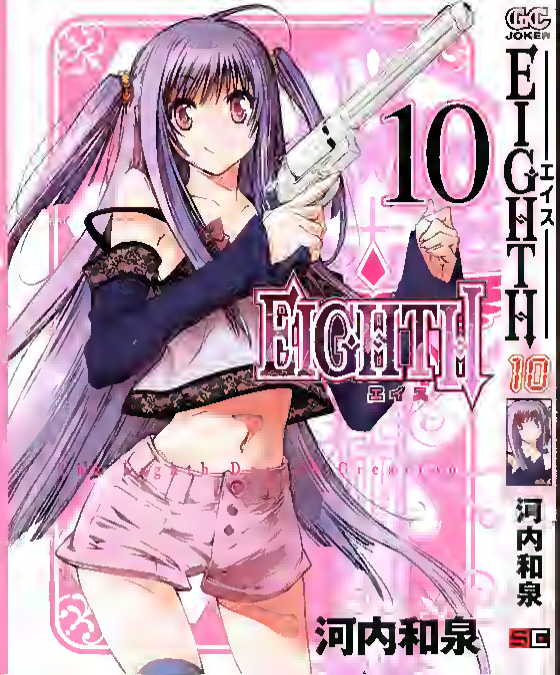
河内和泉

IZUMI KAWACHI



GC JOKER

EIGHTH エイス 10

河内和泉

SC

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9784757538924
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19299790057 19
雑誌48127-84
定価　本体571円＋税
SQUARE ENIX.

盗まれたりおの研究
成果を取り戻すために、
敵スパイの身元を探る
ことになったナオヤ。
だがその際に、りおの研究データを
悪用したと思われる事件が発生し、
組織はエイス全体が巻き込まれる形に
変遷していく…。
エイスVSライバル企業組織、急展開!!
ルカ探点での表の裏の裏外編も収録!!

GC JOKER

EIGHTH エイス 10

河内和泉 ©

SQUARE ENIX

EIGHTH

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Operation.37 EIGHTH TRIAL ③ 003

Operation.38 EIGHTH TRIAL ④ 053

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Operation.37
EIGHTH TRIAL ③

The Hikaru-san on the cover has that feeling all over!! ^o^
S&W M500 It's a huge gun!
She's just a girl. If Hikaru-san shoots it, she might flip over?!
At times like these, you want to pack a punch!!

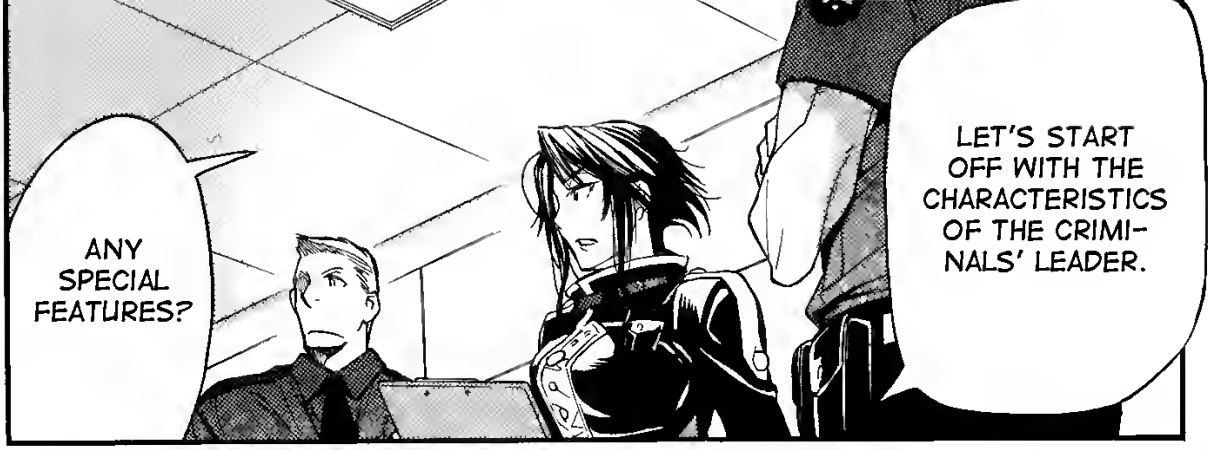
...RIO'S RESEARCH WAS STOLEN.

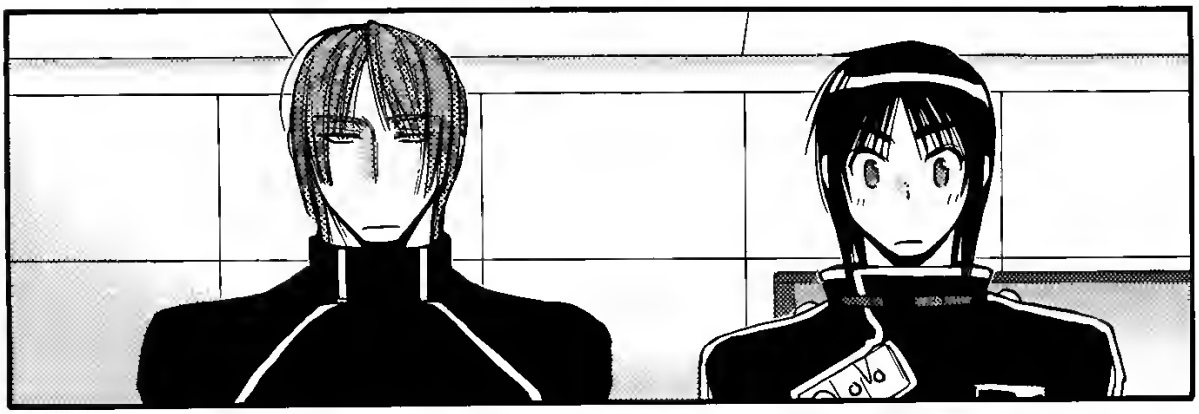
WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?

THAT'S ...

...SO THEN,

WHO IN THE WORLD WAS THAT...?!


ANY SPECIAL FEATURES?
LET'S START OFF WITH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CRIMINALS' LEADER.



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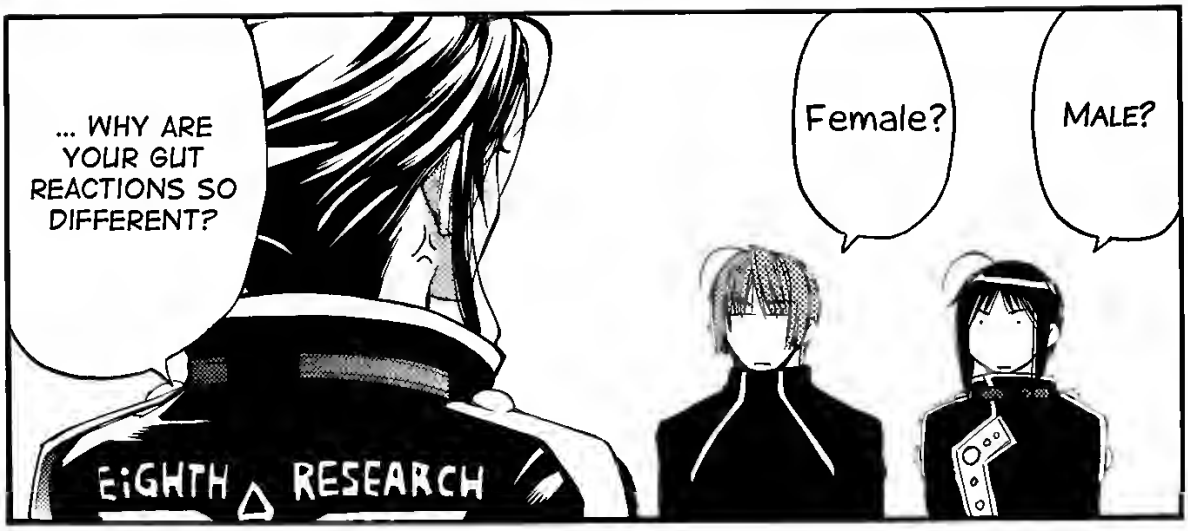
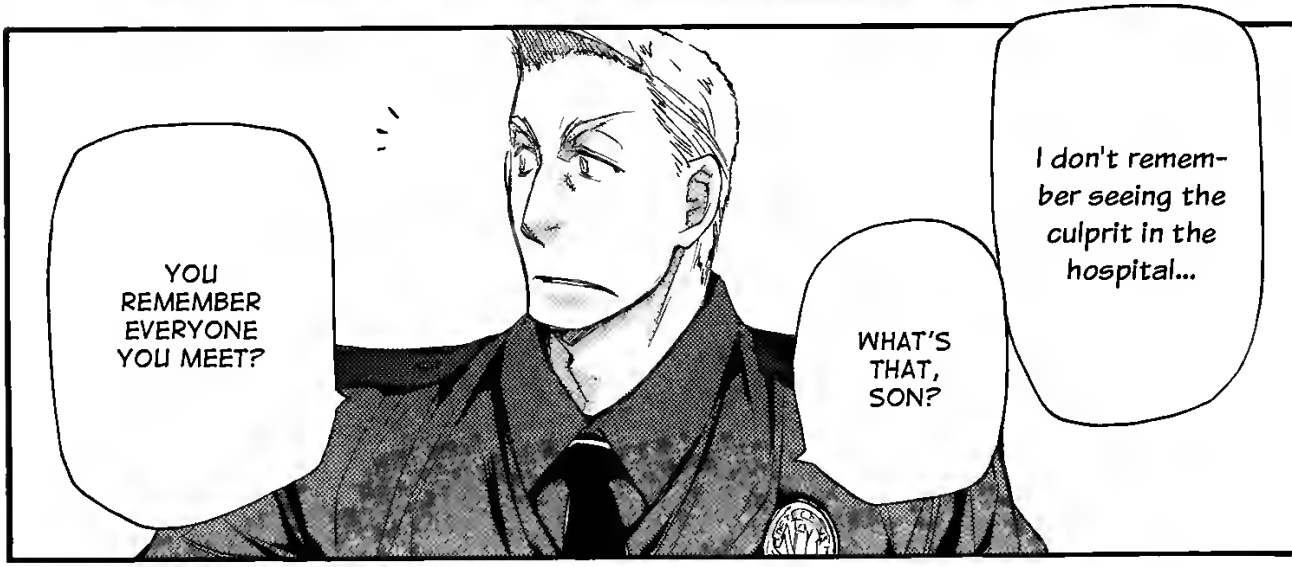

... WHY ARE YOUR GUT REACTIONS SO DIFFERENT?
Female?
MALE?
EIGHTH RESEARCH

... I'M NOT ASKING YOU SOMETHING DIFFICULT.
Her voice was a bit high,
It was a woman.
May have been flat, but they were there.
His body wasn't like a girl, like breasts...
EH? IT WAS A GUY, RIGHT?
Some-thing diffi-cult?
HOW CAN I PUT IT...?
E... EVEN IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY,
TRY TO REMEMBER.
MET HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE...?
HAVE I
.....
.....
"SEE YOU LATER, EIGHTH GUARD."

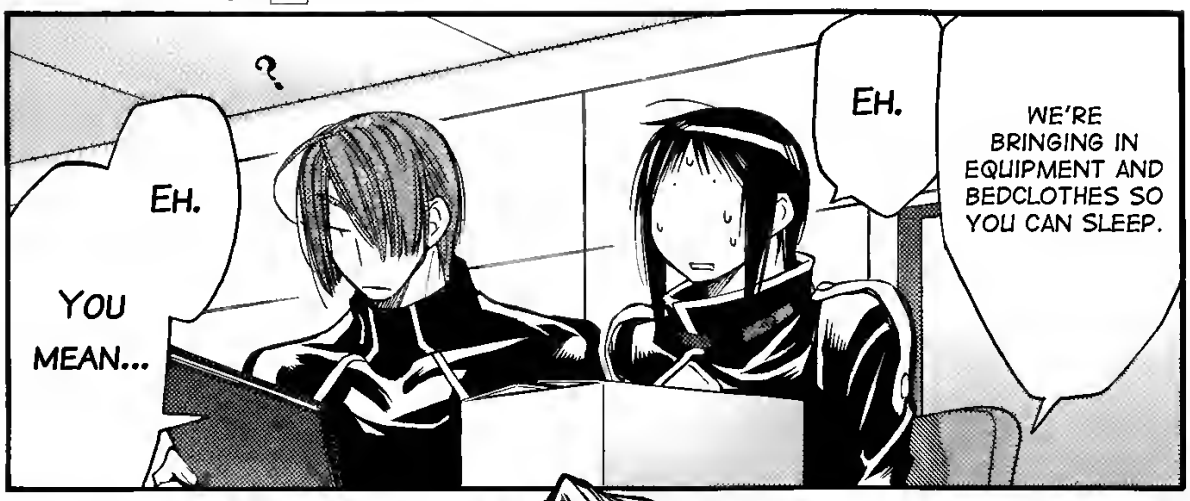
WHERE?
No,
It's just that he looked at me and called me "Eighth Guard."

But
... Yeah, That's probably it...
... ISN'T THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE IN DR. TENNOUJI'S HOSPITAL ROOM SO OFTEN?


YOU REMEMBER EVERYONE YOU MEET?
WHAT'S THAT, SON?
I don't remember seeing the culprit in the hospital...

WHEN I WENT IN AND OUT OF THE HOSPITAL,
UMM...
CELCIA WAS WITH ME...
I WAS A BIT CAREFUL OF THE SURROUND-INGS---
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
WHEN RIO HAD HER EMERGENCY ADMITTANCE, HE MIGHT HAVE KNOWN I WAS AN EIGHTH GUARD THEN.
WHEN THE DOCTOR WAS HOSPITALIZED, YES.
AND I WASN'T AS AWARE OF MY SURROUNDINGS THEN.
CHECK THE HOSPITAL SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL BE THERE THAT FAR BACK, BUT...
... IT WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE TIME
EIGHTH HAD THAT THING WITH A SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER.

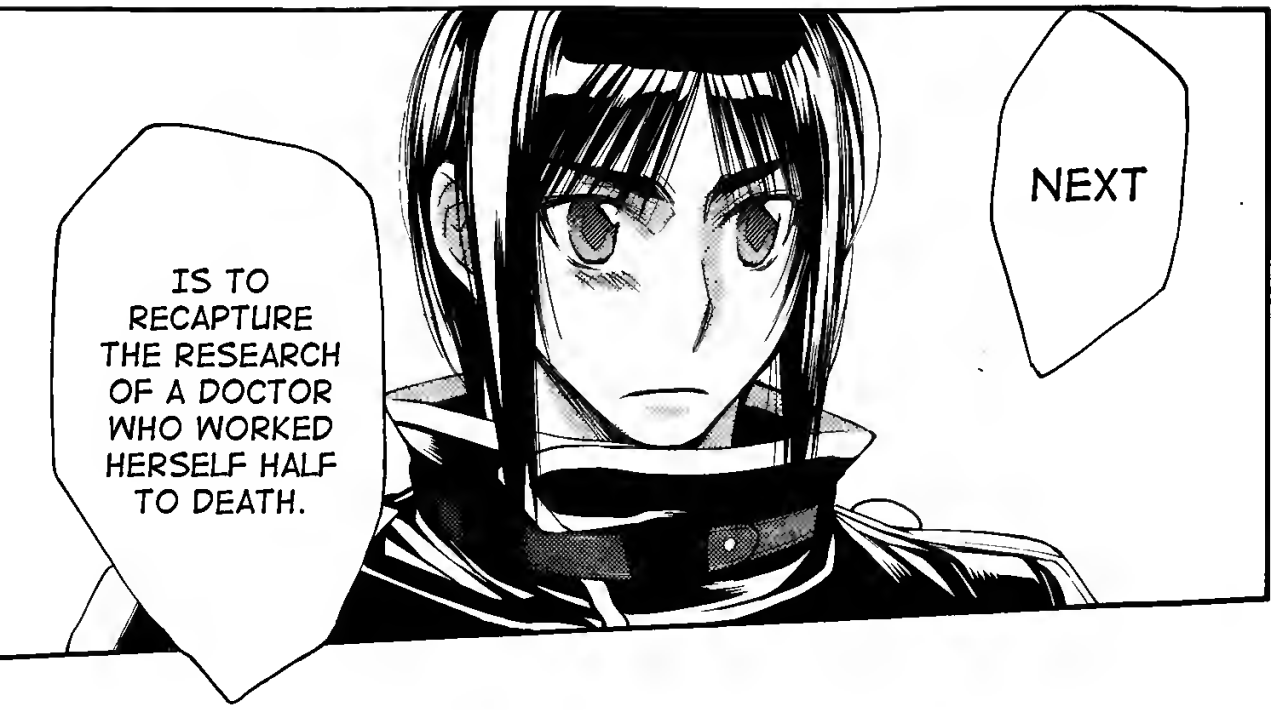
SFX: PLOP
どん
どん
...EXCUSE ME...
HERE'S THE FOOTAGE AND DOCUMENTATION FROM THE HOSPITAL AND EIGHTH FOR THAT PERIOD.
IT'S SEVERAL WEEKS' WORTH, BUT THE LAPD HAS THE STUFF FROM THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT.

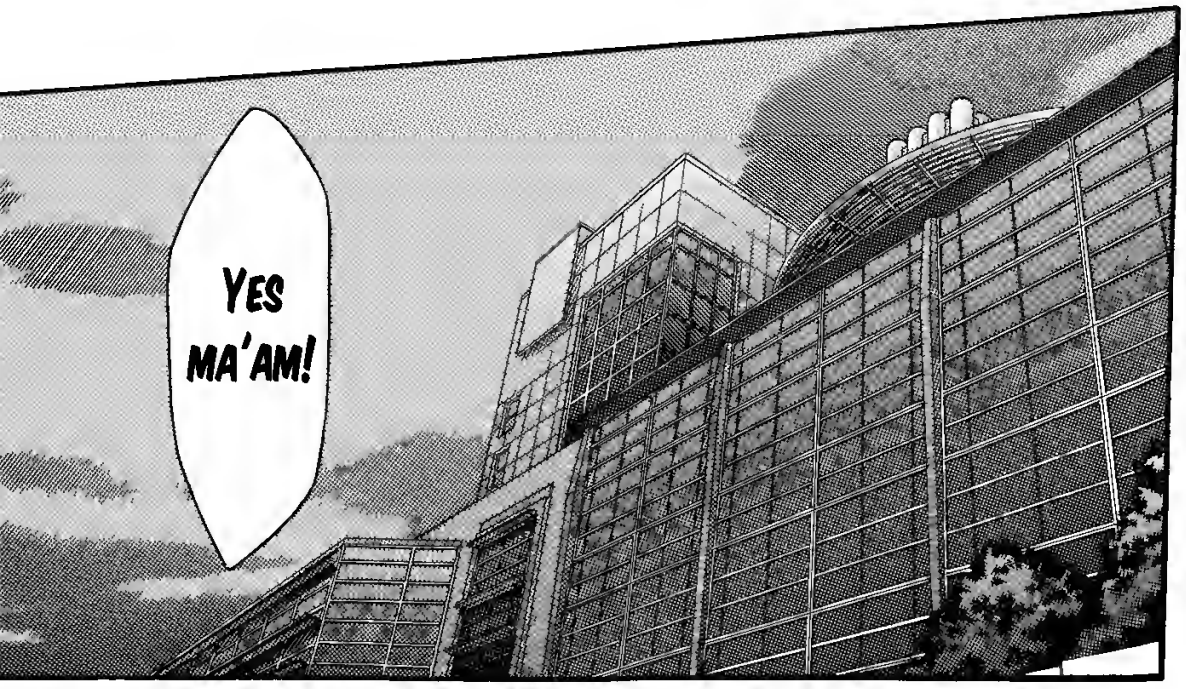

?
EH.
YOU MEAN...
EH.
WE'RE BRINGING IN EQUIPMENT AND BEDCLOTHES SO YOU CAN SLEEP.

YOUR REPLY?
RUN YOUR EYES OVER EVERYTHING.

BUT IF THERE'S A CRISIS SITUATION, THE DUTY MAY FALL UPON YOU.
IF THE POLICE CATCH THEM, FINE.
Hey, I am-
obviously, you'll do it too.
Why do you think you're here?
It's a death-march...
Y... YES MA'AM, UNDERSTOOD.

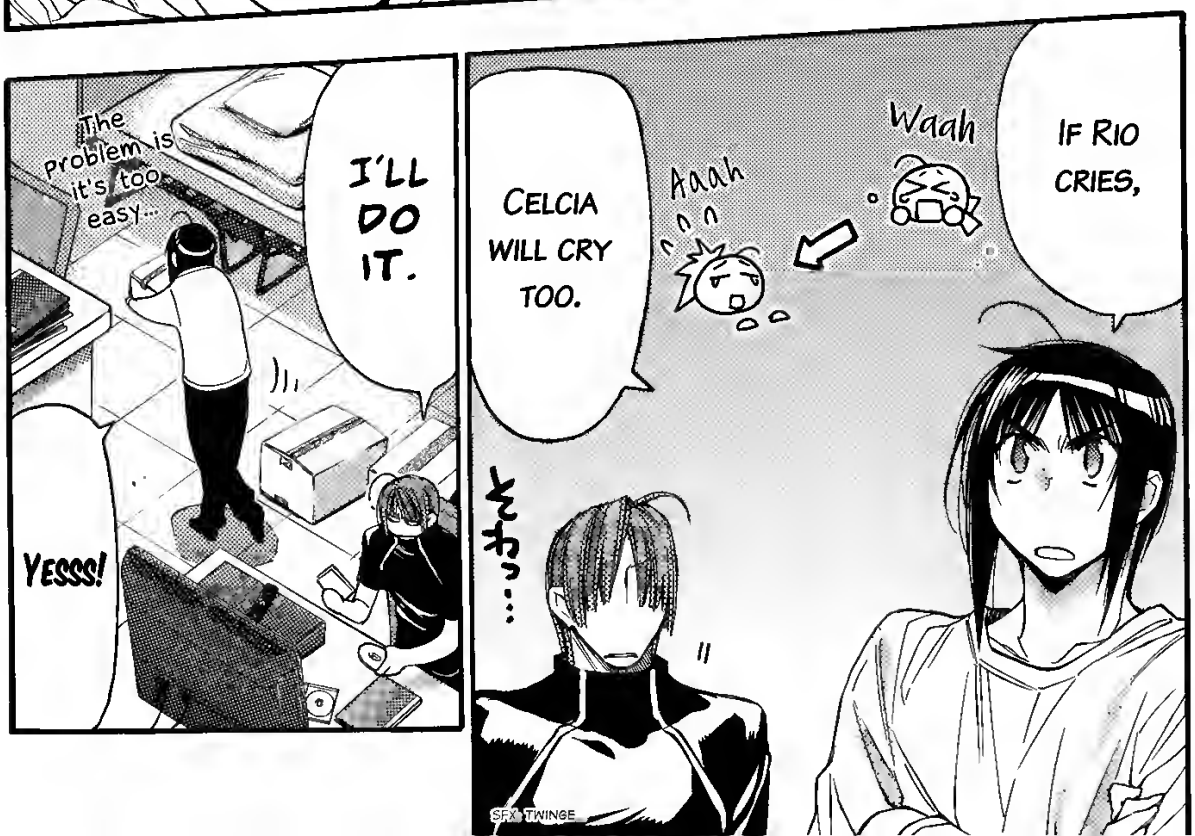
TEAM UP, IF YOU WOULD.
GOT IT?
AND ALSO---
GOOD JOB PROTECTING DR. TENNOUJI.

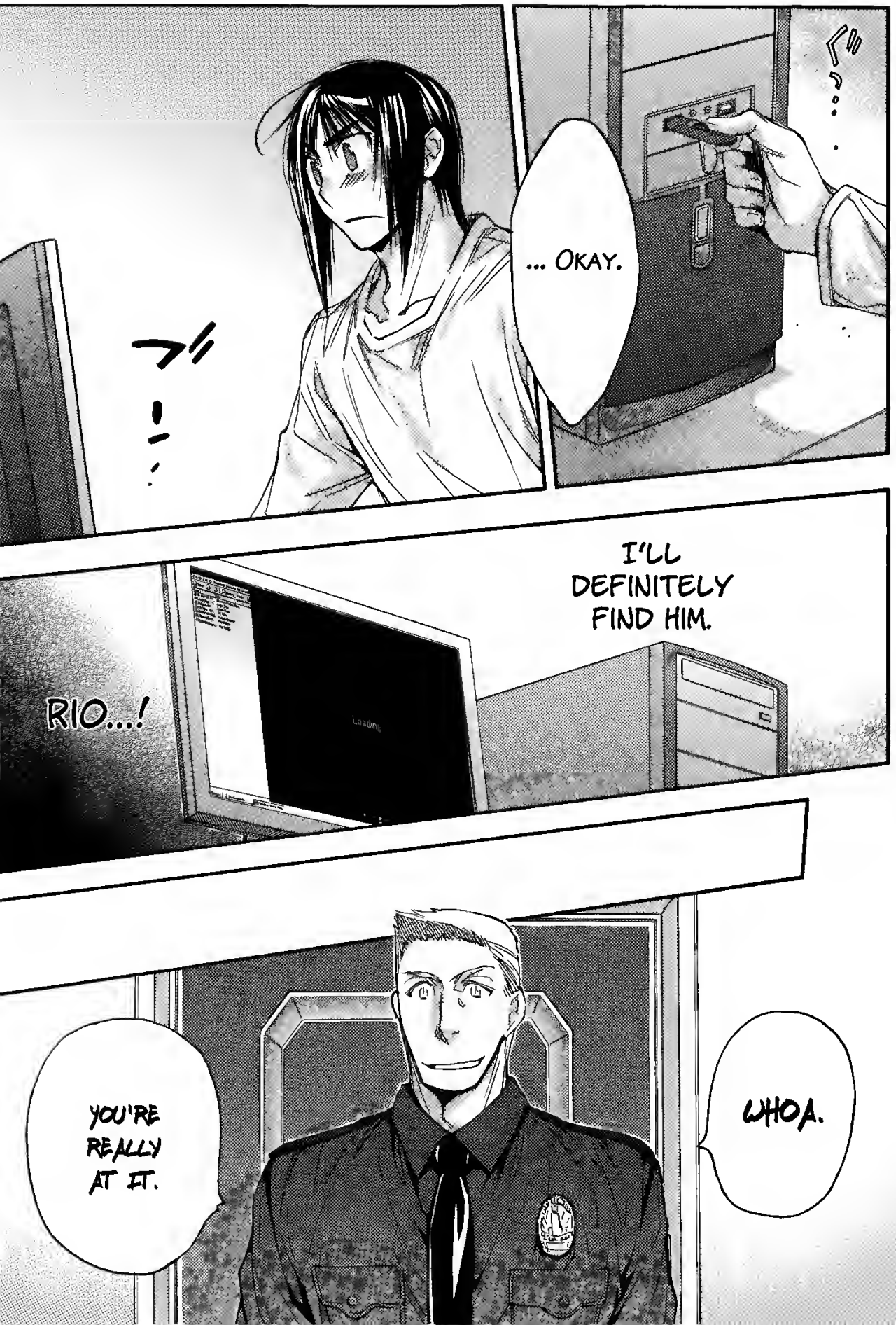

NEXT
IS TO RECAPTURE THE RESEARCH OF A DOCTOR WHO WORKED HERSELF HALF TO DEATH.


YES MA'AM!

WE'LL DO IT!
SHUT UP.

Hey-
IT'S UNREASONABLE TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE "IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CELCIA, SO..."
We're Pooling our resources!!
I WON'T.
SURELY YOU JEST.
HOLD IT. IT DOES LINK BACK TO YOU.


IF RIO CRIES,
Waah
Aaah
CELCIA WILL CRY TOO.
そわっ…
I'LL DO IT.
The problem is it's too easy…
YESSS!
SFX: TWINGE


ぐぃっ…
… OKAY.
ズ！！
I'LL DEFINITELY FIND HIM.
RIO…!
Loading
WHOA.
YOU'RE REALLY AT IT.

YOU MUST BE STARVING. HOW ABOUT SOME DONUTS?
I'M OFFICER JAKE JENKINS.
RIGHT, YOU'RE LAPD OFFICER...
AH... ER...
YEAH.

Fine work you're doing.
... Our monitoring job?
Can I have one too?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

EH?
EH.
.....

WE'RE HAVING TO PROVIDE DATA THAT MAY BE EVIDENCE TO PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE POLICE, SO SORRY ABOUT THIS.
Nah, well...
AH, HOW HARSH.
WELL, THAT'S HOW IT IS, HUH!
EH?

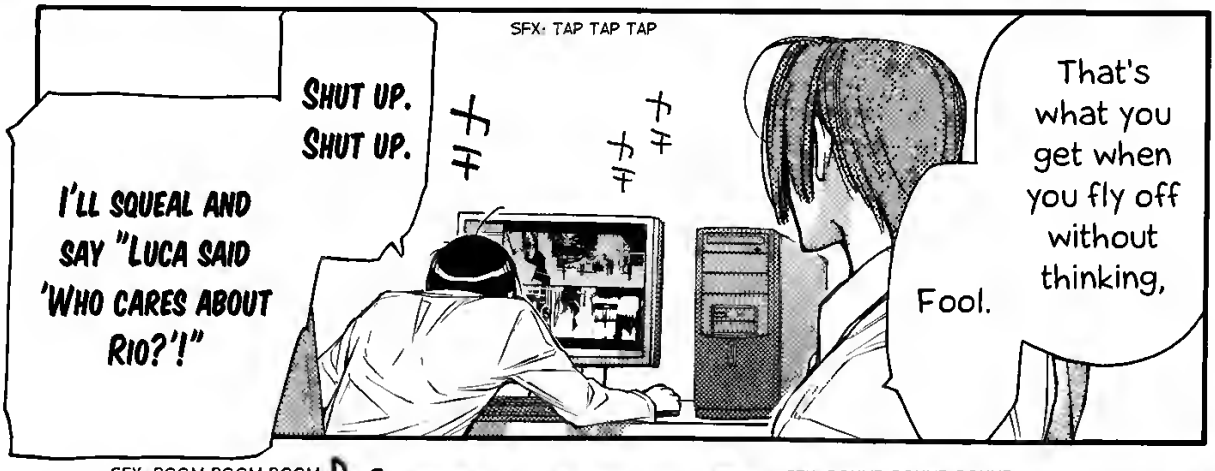
W...
WE WON'T DO ANY-THING!
I GET IT, I GET IT.
JUST THINK OF ME AS MERELY A SHADOW.
WHOA, YOU'VE GOT BEDS AND EVERYTHING.

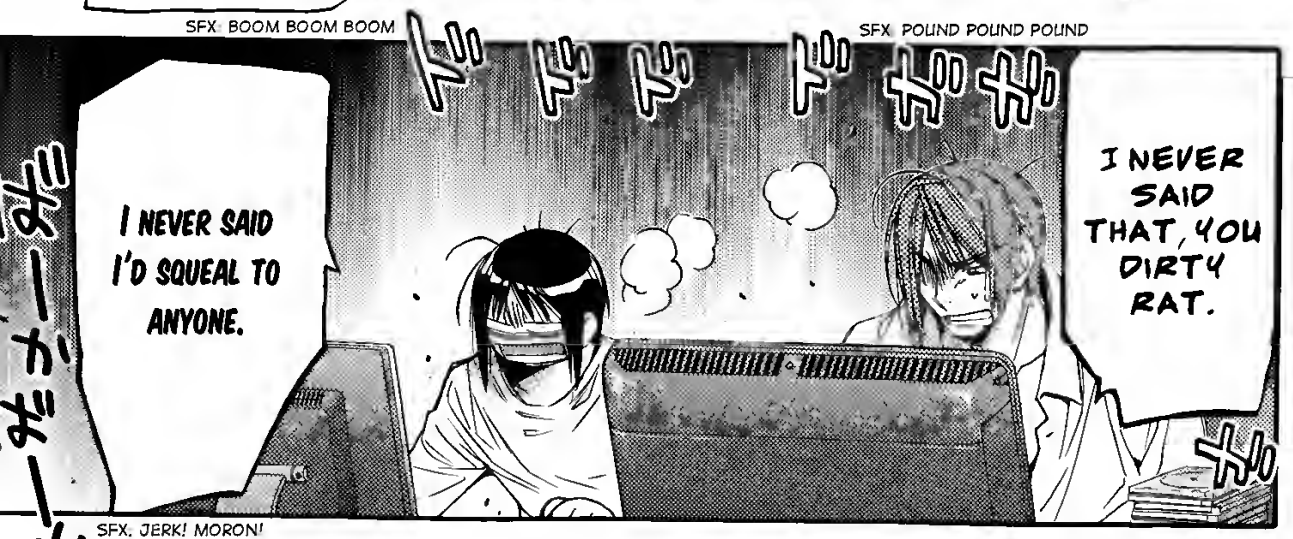
CAN I BORROW THIS?
I'VE BEEN ON NIGHT DUTY SINCE YES-TERDAY.
Nnnnph--
EH- HOLD ON!
I'm gonna rest a bit too...
SFX MMMPH--
H-HEY.

ぐお
EH?! YOU'RE SERIOUSLY SLEEPING?!!
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE MAKING ME MAD!!

THINK ABOUT RIO'S FEELINGS!
SHUT UP!
WAIT... YOU'RE SERIOUS?
HOW CAN YOU BE THIS CAREFREE?
SFX: TAP TAP TAP TAP
カチ カチ カチ カチ
EVEN IF IT'S JUST ME, I'LL DEFINITELY FIND HIM!!
DAMMIT TO HELL!
SFX: CHIRP CHIRP
ちゅん ちゅん
... I'VE FOUND SOMETHING...

SFX: NODDING OFF
カクッ
……
IF THE CULPRIT WAS NEVER ON ANY OF THE SECURITY CAMERAS-----
THIS WHOLE THING WILL BE A WASTE OF TIME...

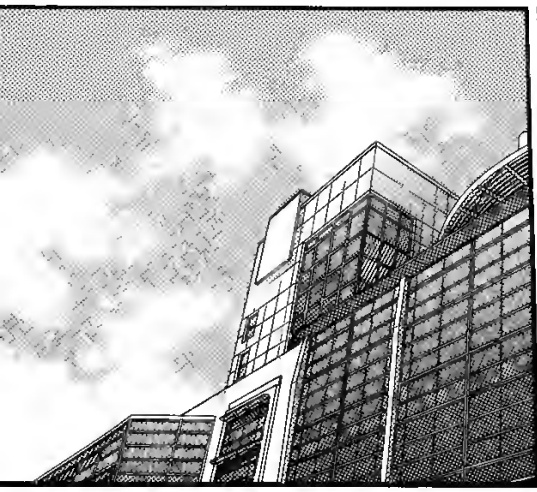

SFX: TAP TAP TAP
SHUT UP. SHUT UP.
I'LL SQUEAL AND SAY "LUCA SAID 'WHO CARES ABOUT RIO?'!"
That's what you get when you fly off without thinking,
Fool.

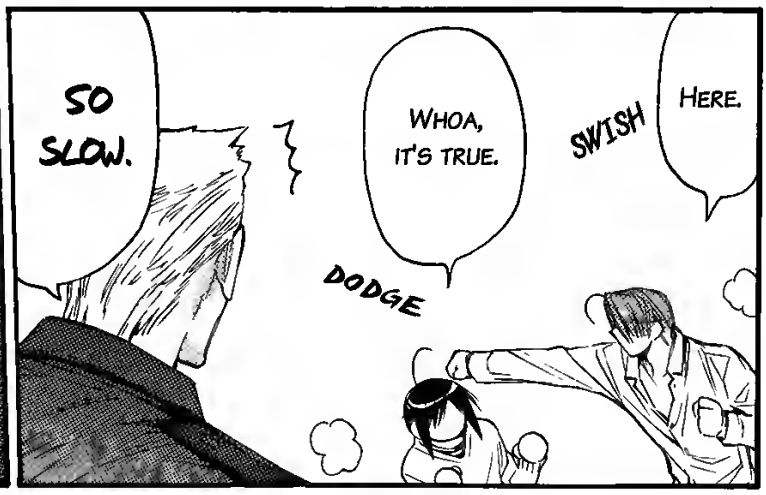

SFX: BOOM BOOM BOOM
SFX: POUND POUND POUND
I NEVER SAID I'D SQUEAL TO ANYONE.
I NEVER SAID THAT, YOU DIRTY RAT.
SFX: JERK! MORON!

YOU TWO SURE GET ALONG WELL!
WE DON'T GET ALONG!
GO BUY US SOME-THING BESIDES DONUTS!!
HE'S DETECTIVE DONUTS.
No, he's a Donuts Doofus.
Good ones!
GOOD, GOOD, BANDING TO-GETHER AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY IS BEST!

SFX: ROAR
うおおん
YOU TOO, OLD MAN?!
WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR MY NEXT ACT---!!
-- AAAAH ....

If you get used to viewing footage at double speed,
Normal speed looks slow.
I'm getting mental images of dodging gunshots.
Ah, like getting used to the Matrix--
OH, YOU'RE AT DOUBLE SPEED?
I'M DOING THIS AT 4X SPEED.




SO SLOW.
WHOA, IT'S TRUE.
DODGE
SWISH
HERE.

I took it too far.
THAT'S GOING TOO FAR.
I wish all those that weren't involved would just disappear.
Passers-by don't even look human anymore.

Philo-sophy
WHY ARE THESE PEOPLE WALKING HERE...

What about drawing a sketch of the culprit?
!!
THAT'S IT!
BUT,

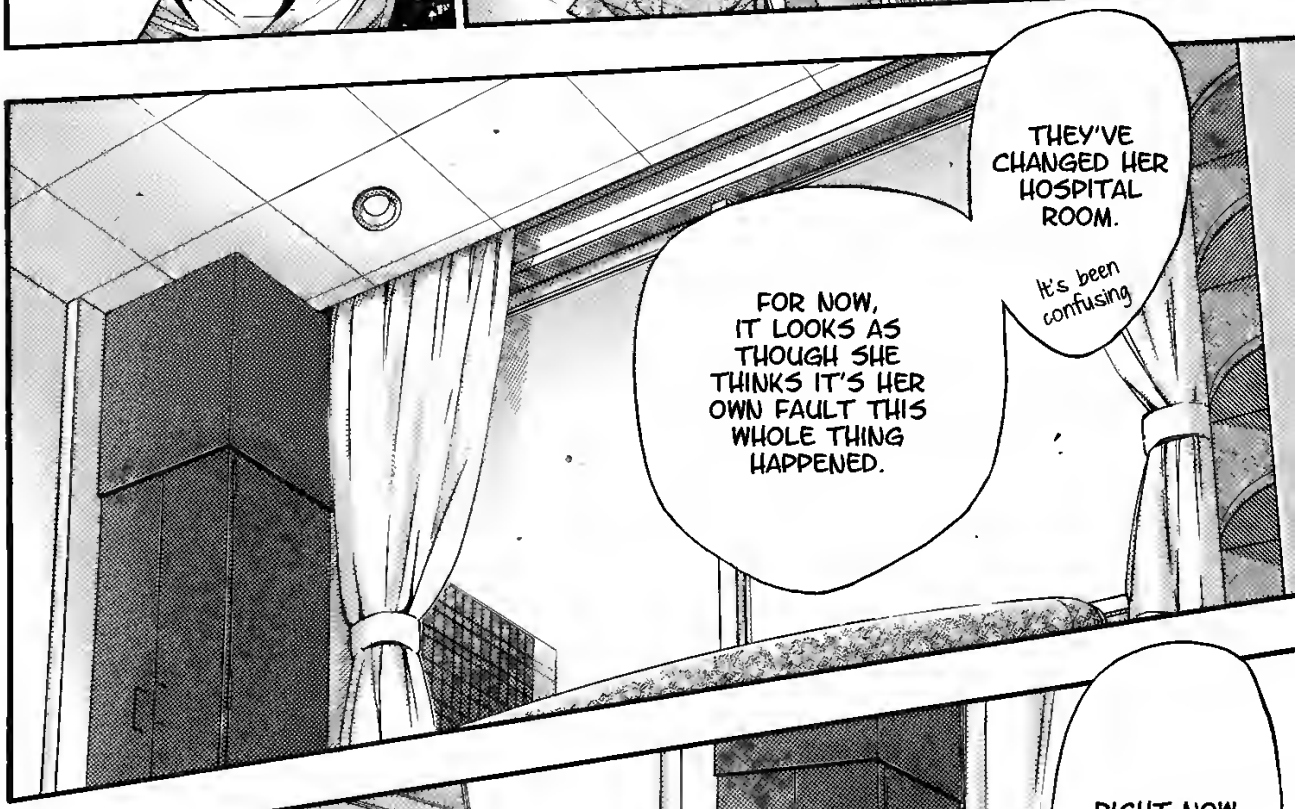
RIGHT NOW, I'D PROBABLY DRAW SOMETHING WEIRD.
... I see.
I too would probably draw donuts.

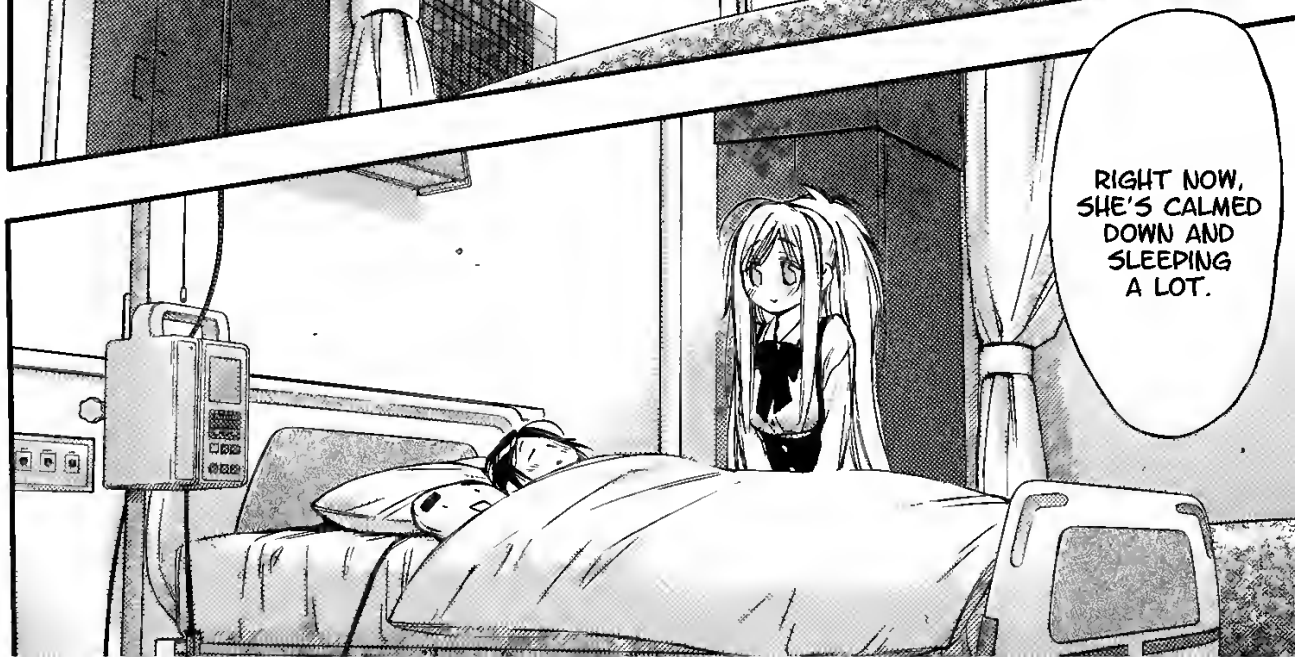
Hikaru's onigiri, and--
Hikaru's sandwiches, and---

WHEN I WAKE UP, I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT.
Maybe a montage or some-thing--
... Sure
chirp chirp

SFX: TADAAA!
じゃーん!
Mari-san's coffee!
It'll give you wings♡
It's an angel x2!!
SH-
Who's this?
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!
I'm not giving you much of this...
SFX. MENACING
Hold it a sec.
Is my necktie on straight?
Hey, you!
Dunno, shut up, who cares?
MAN, YOU'RE A LIFESAVER.
THANKS, HIKARU!
It's not...
IT'S NOT REALLY THAT MUCH...

MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU TWO HAVEN'T COME BACK TO THE ROOM. ARE YOU GONNA BE ALL RIGHT?
WE'RE FINE. GUARDS HAVE TO DO THIS EVERY NOW AND THEN.
HOW'S RIO'S CONDITION?
AH, RIGHT.


THEY'VE CHANGED HER HOSPITAL ROOM.
It's been confusing
FOR NOW, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH SHE THINKS IT'S HER OWN FAULT THIS WHOLE THING HAPPENED.

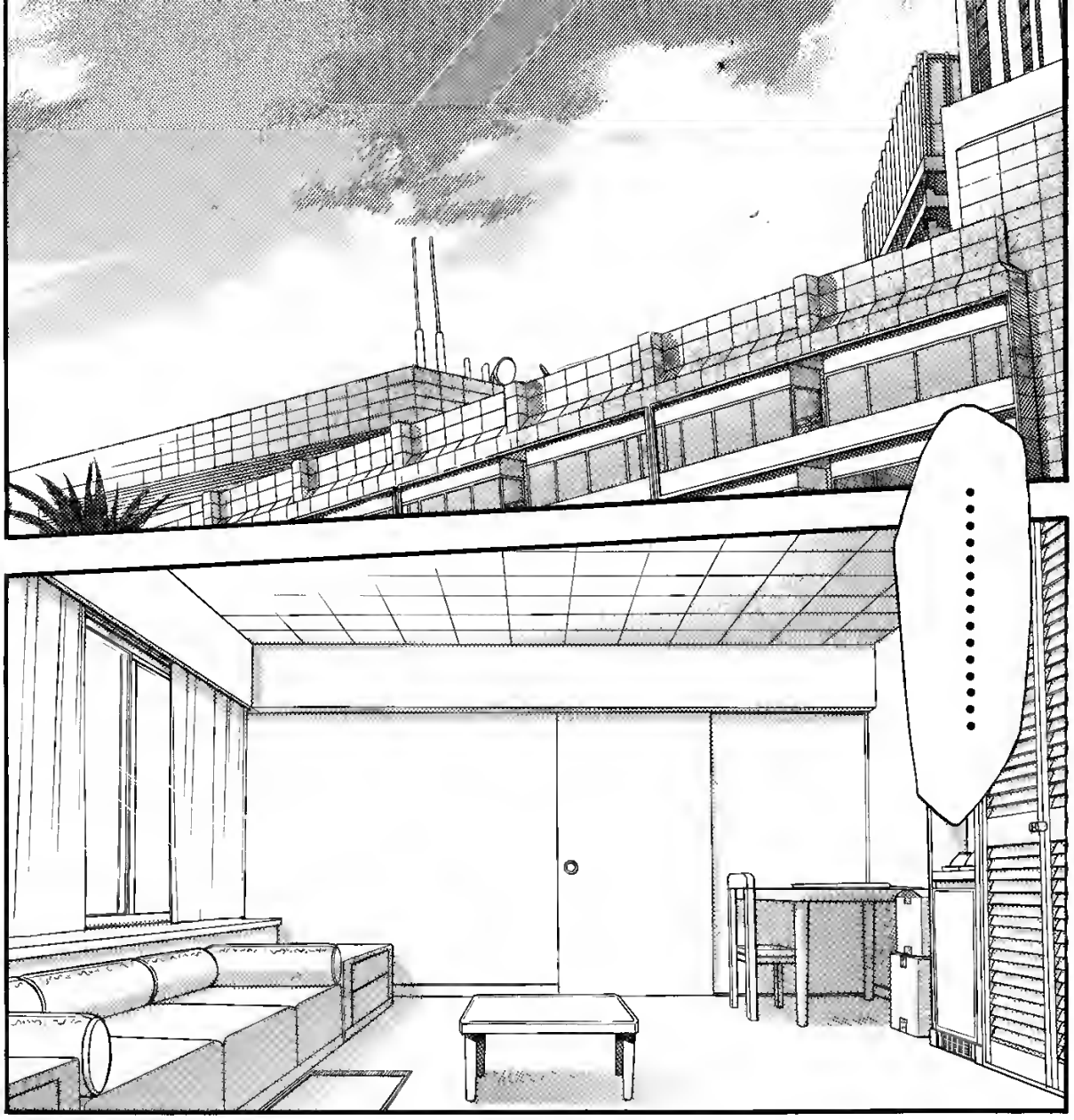

RIGHT NOW, SHE'S CALMED DOWN AND SLEEPING A LOT.

I SEE.
EVEN THOUGH RIO DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG...
YUP.
I GOTTA HURRY UP AND FIND THIS GUY.
... YEAH.
THERE'S SO MANY THINGS I CAN'T GRASP.
AND I'M GETTING IMPATIENT.

AM I REALLY GOING TO SEE HIM HERE?
IS THIS WHAT I SHOULD REALLY BE DOING---?
DAMN...!
INVESTIGATIONS LIKE THIS ARE JUST PLAIN ROUGH.
I'm not good at it
FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, WOULD YOU SHUT UP?

IT'S NAOYA, AND I'M SURE HE'LL MANAGE SOMEHOW.

---- IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.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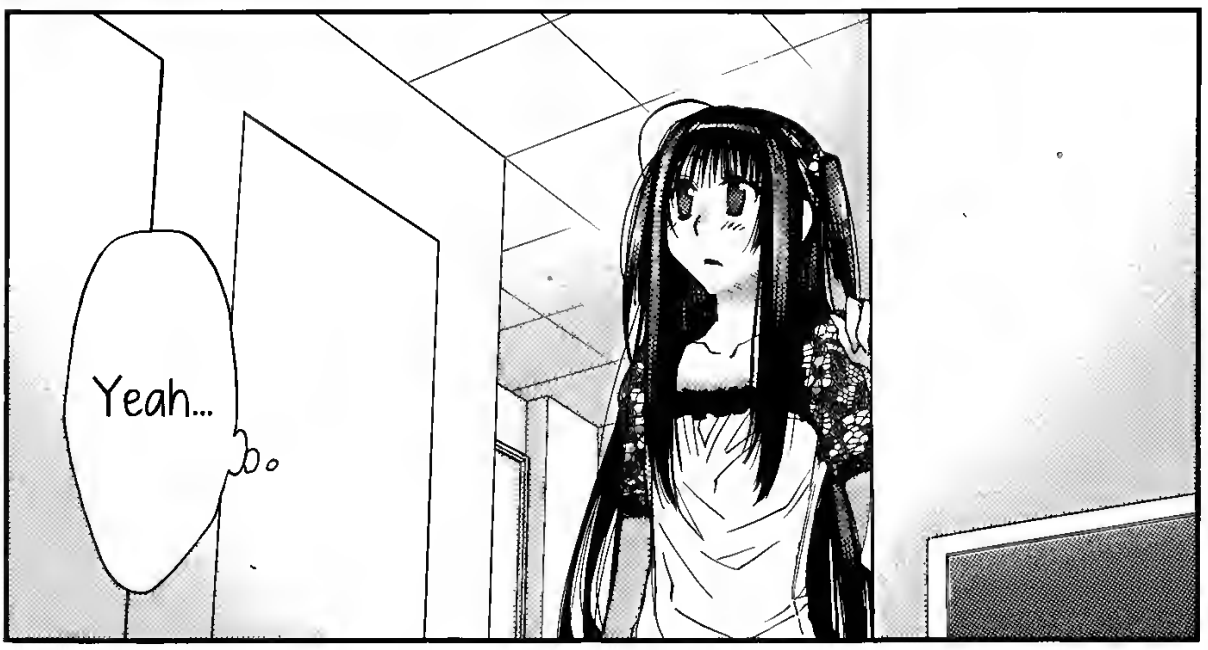
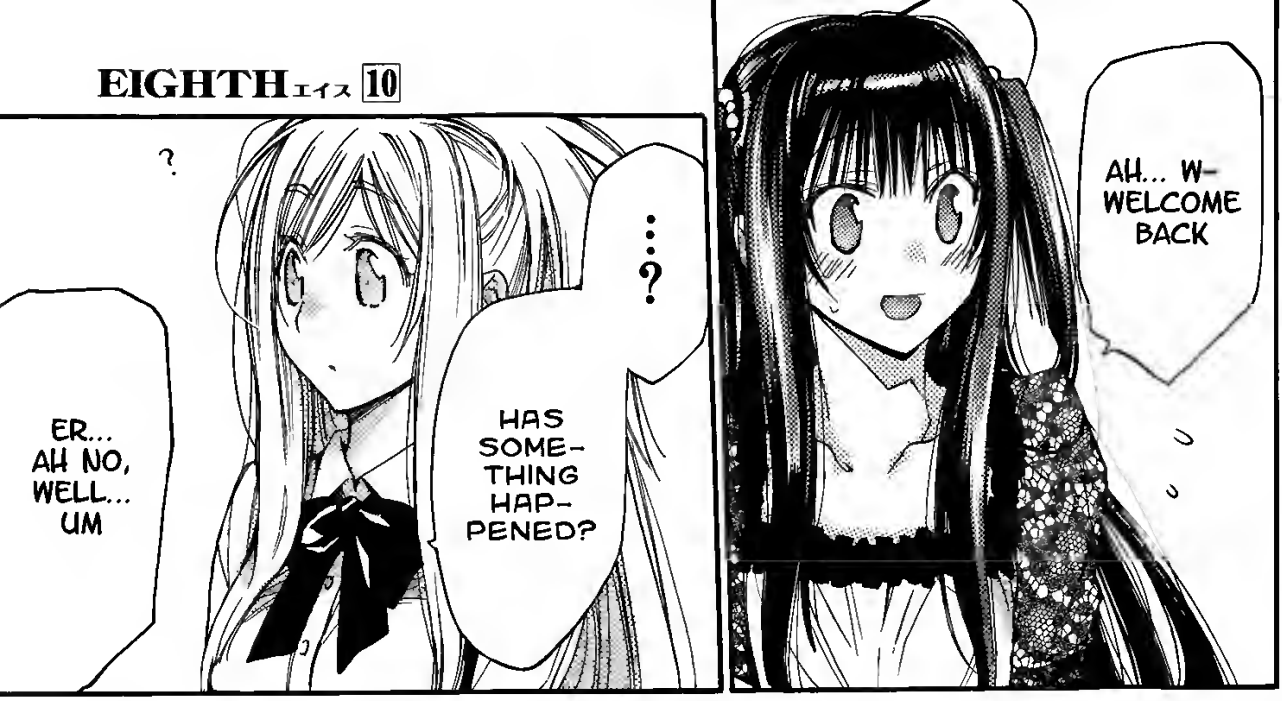
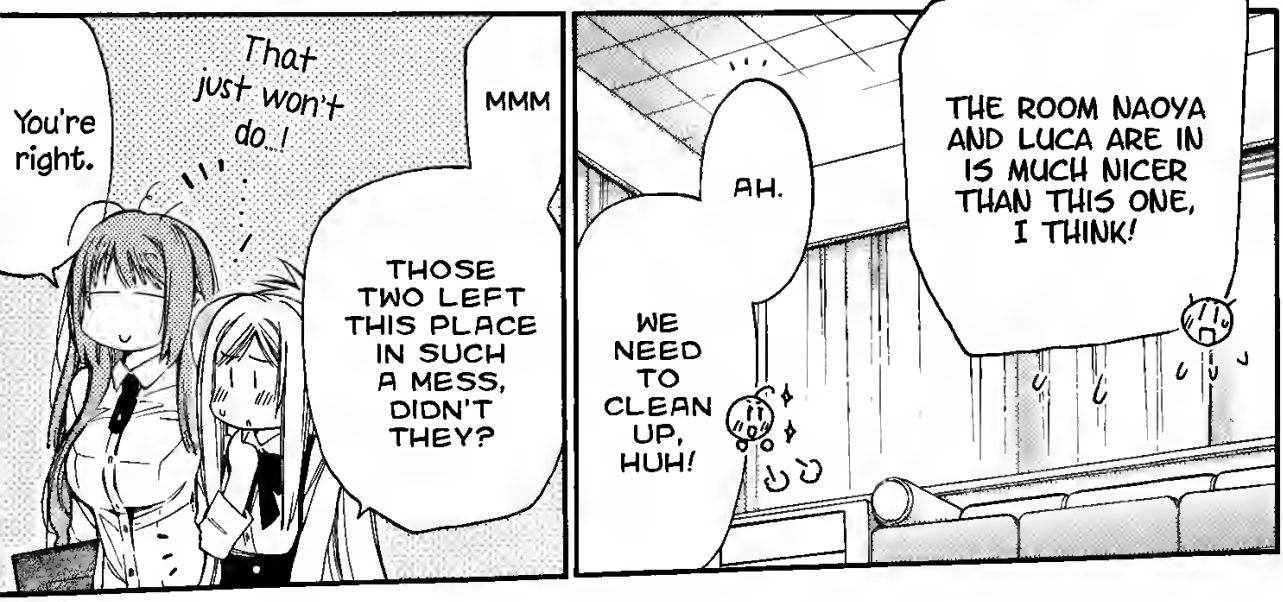

Yeah...

...Only just a while ago, everyone was together in this room.
Playing,
Sharing food---
It was so lively... and yet...
AH, HIKARU-SAN!
GASP
I'M BACK!
From the hospital
OH...

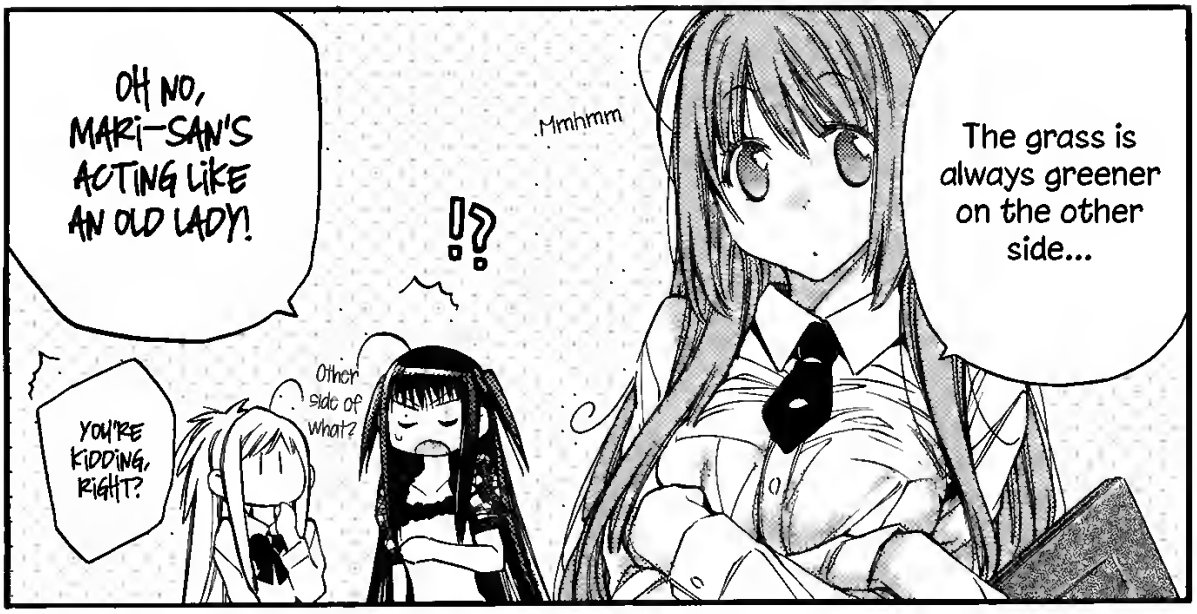

AH... W-WELCOME BACK
?
...?
HAS SOME-THING HAP-PENED?
ER... AH NO, WELL... UM


THE ROOM NAOYA AND LUCA ARE IN IS MUCH NICER THAN THIS ONE, I THINK!
AH.
WE NEED TO CLEAN UP, HUH!
MMM
THOSE TWO LEFT THIS PLACE IN SUCH A MESS, DIDN'T THEY?
That just won't do...!
You're right.

But, doesn't that just show how hard they're looking right now?
AH... YES, I SEE HOW IT IS
THEN I TOO SHALL DO WHAT I CAN!

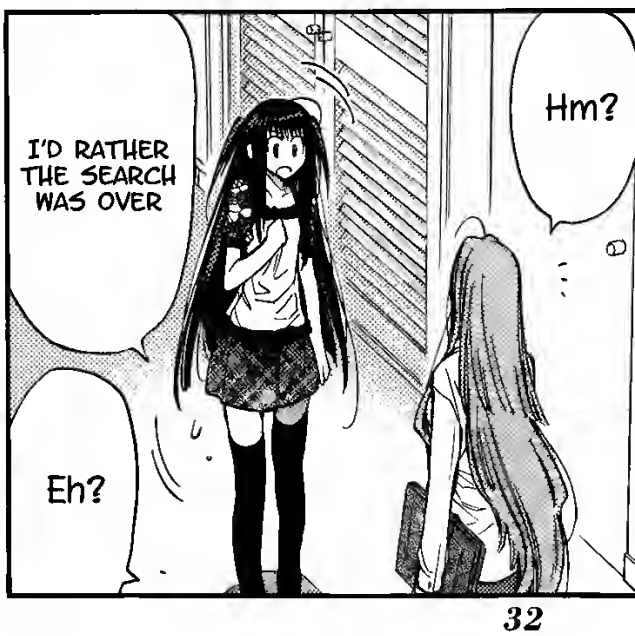
SFX: WOBBLING
WAH, LOOK OUT!
WILL THIS MUCH BE ENOUGH?
よた
よた
!
Y-YES!
Then how about taking them a change of clothing?
Celcia, will you take care of it?
EVEN THOUGH I FINALLY FOUND MY ROLE, IN WASHING THEM...
EEEH.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO!
Look, it fell
YOU KNOW, IF YOU TAKE A LOT, DON'T YOU THINK IT SAYS "DON'T COME BACK"?
BUT
SO YOU DON'T NEED TO THINK LIKE THAT
CELCIA, YOU REALLY SAFE-GUARDED RIO

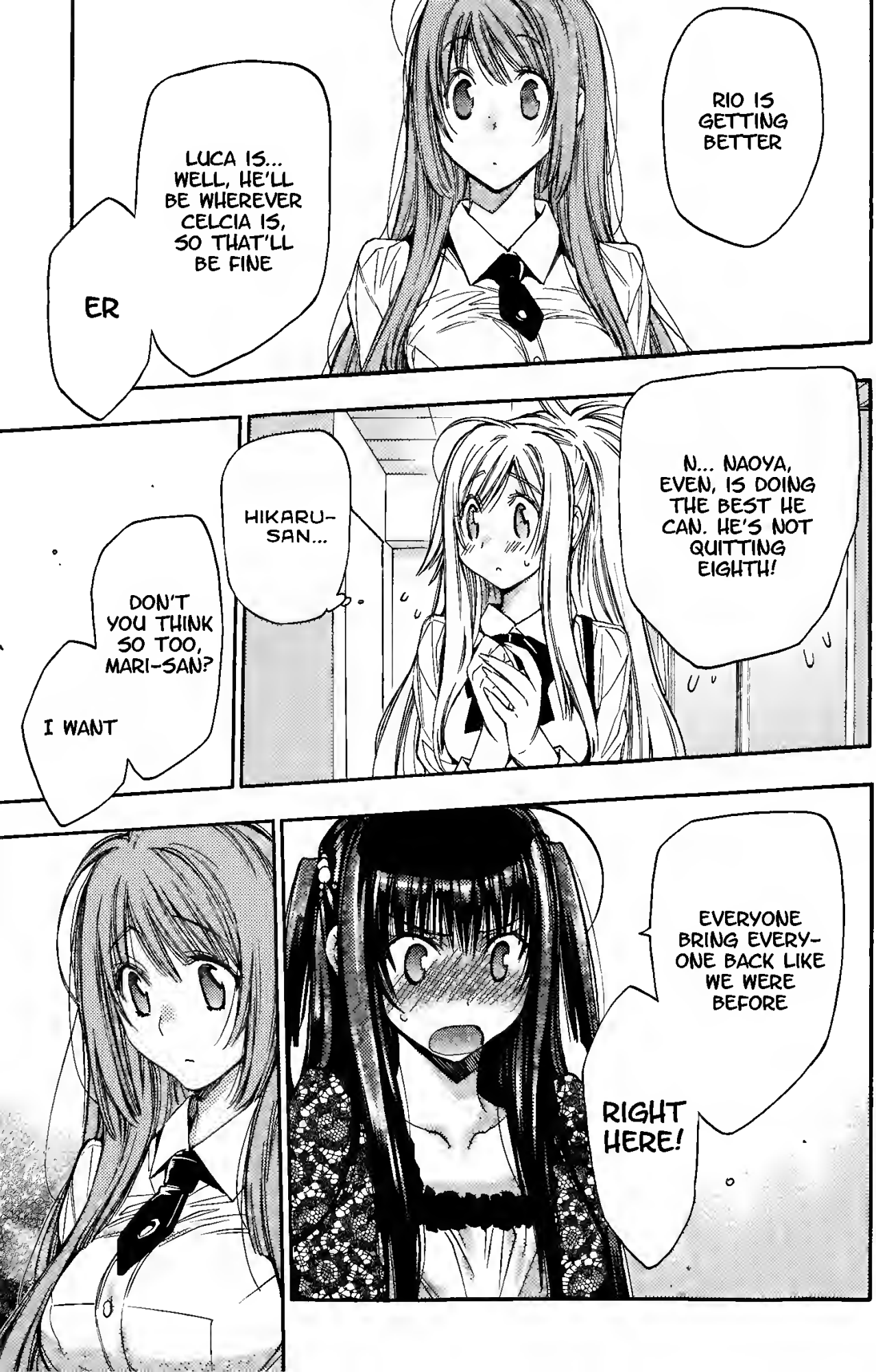
I-I DIDN'T MEAN...
cut it out already!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN ME NEITHER, RIGHT?
BUT NAOYA AND LUCA-SAN ARE BOTH GIVING IT THEIR ALL,
AND I CAN'T DO ANY-THING...
Meals are important!
Well, that is true, but...
And Hikaru-san's food is sooo delicious
I'm not a maid!
Oh, my
HIKARU-SAN, DIDN'T YOU MAKE THE FOOD?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING--
Sorry
...ER
YES I AM, ACTU-ALLY...
AL-RIGHTY
That's not what I'm saying!
ARE YOU HUNGRY?


OH NO, MARI-SAN'S ACTING LIKE AN OLD LADY!
Mmhmm
The grass is always greener on the other side...
!?
Other side of what?
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

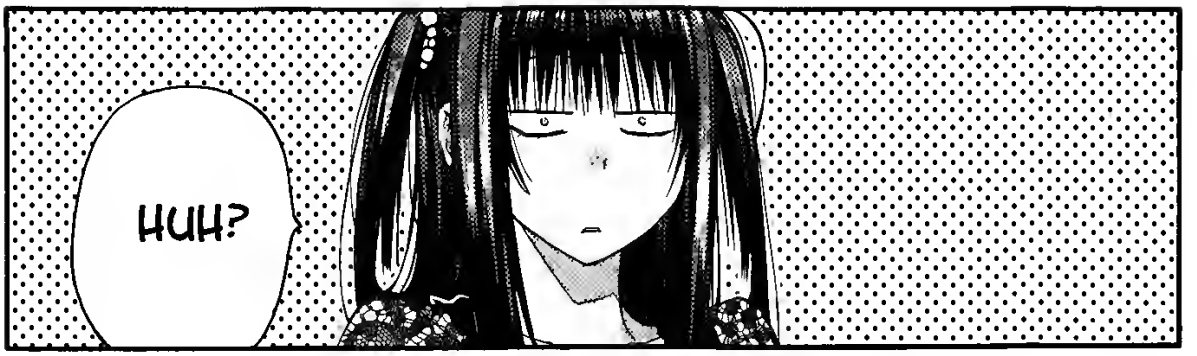
... HEY, MARI-SAN
.....
Don't be so serious!
Now, now
I was just saying that you both are doing well.

I CAN'T HELP, CAN I?
IF THEY FOUND THE CRIMINAL, EVERYONE WOULD COME BACK TO THE ROOM, RIGHT?!

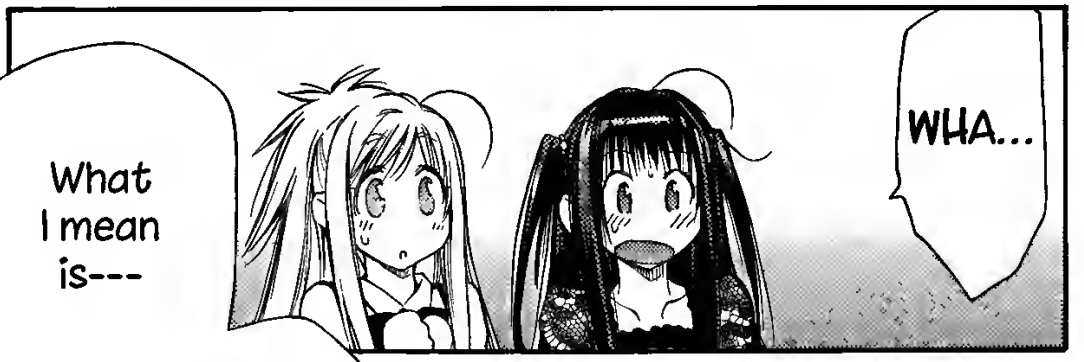

I'D RATHER THE SEARCH WAS OVER
Eh?
Hm?

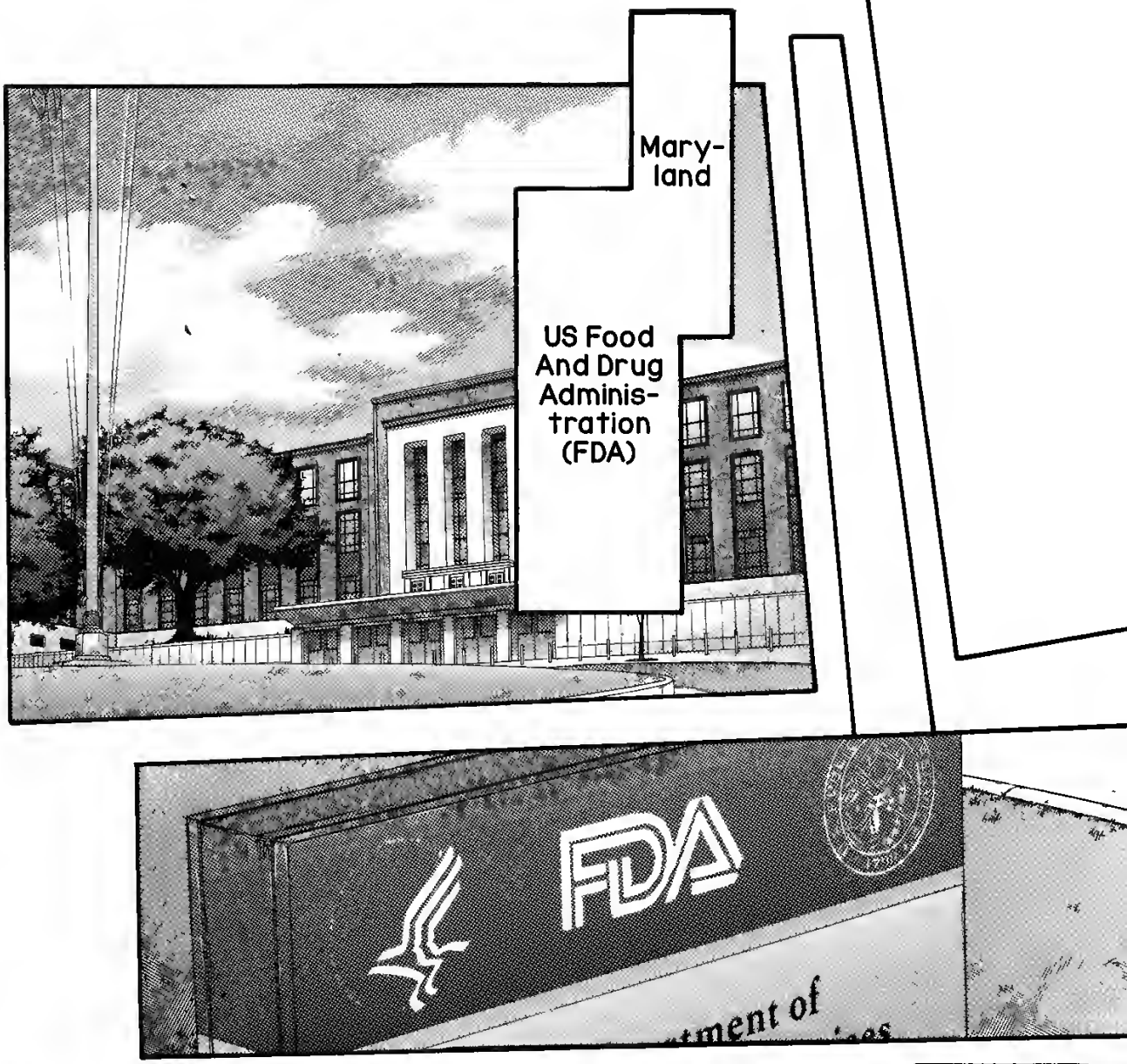

RIO IS GETTING BETTER
LUCA IS... WELL, HE'LL BE WHEREVER CELCIA IS, SO THAT'LL BE FINE
ER
N... NAOYA, EVEN, IS DOING THE BEST HE CAN. HE'S NOT QUITTING EIGHTH!
HIKARU-SAN...
DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO, MARI-SAN?
I WANT
EVERYONE BRING EVERY-ONE BACK LIKE WE WERE BEFORE
RIGHT HERE!

.....
MARI-SAN!
I BELIEVE THAT'S DEFI-NITELY THE BEST THING,
Hm, yes...
.....
As Mari-san, I'm not one to talk.
But if I were to say one thing, it's---
Every-thing
Always moves forward!


HUH?

Going back!
There's no need for

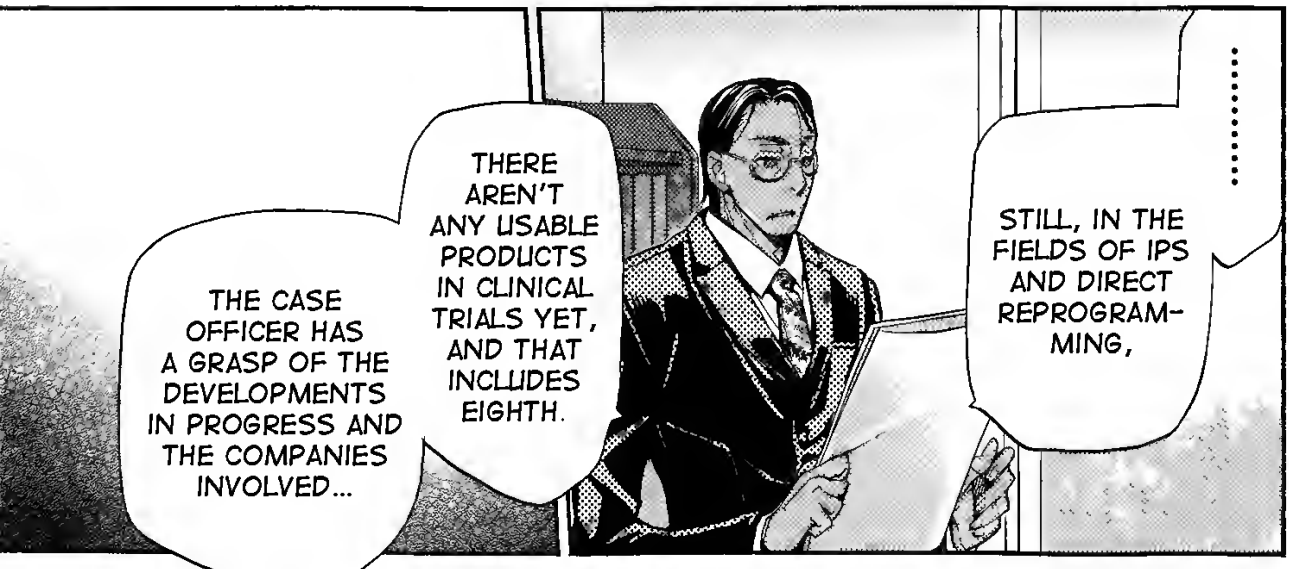

WHA...
What I mean is---
Move forward from here!


Mary-
land
US Food
And Drug
Adminis-
tration
(FDA)
FDA
ment of

Center
For
Biologics
Evaluation
And
Research
(CBER)
... YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SPECIFI-CALLY COME ALL THE WAY HERE.
THE STORY WORKED ITS WAY HERE FROM THE LAPD.

NATURALLY, EVEN CBER IS INVESTI-GATING.
IT'S A BIG DEAL.
I THOUGHT I'D COME SAY IT DIRECTLY.

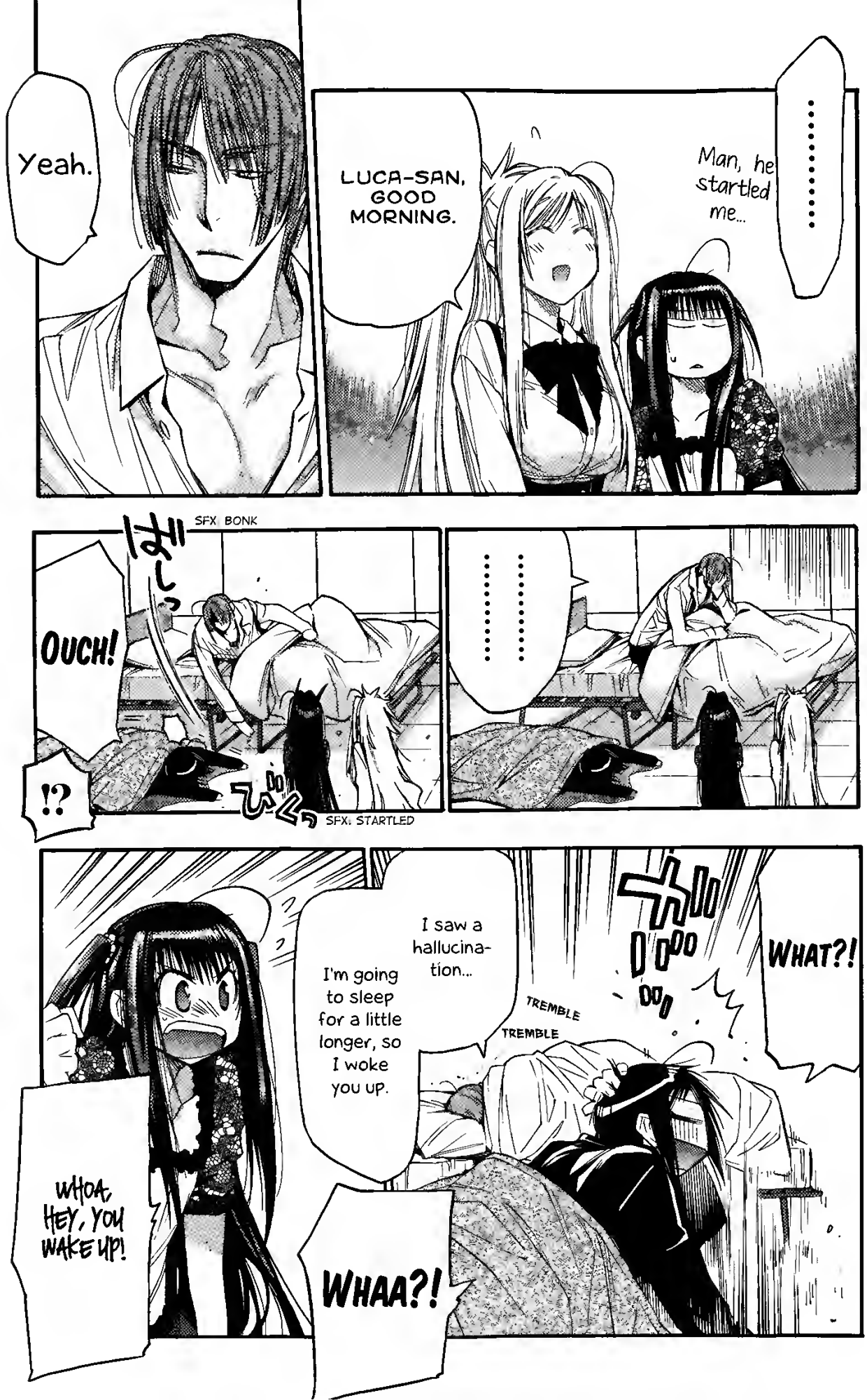
THERE'S A HIGH CHANCE IT'S THE ONE RESPONSIBLE.
IF ANOTHER COMPANY SENDS IN A PETITION WITH SIMILAR INFORMATION, PLEASE HOLD IT UP.


THE CASE OFFICER HAS A GRASP OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN PROGRESS AND THE COMPANIES INVOLVED...
THERE AREN'T ANY USABLE PRODUCTS IN CLINICAL TRIALS YET, AND THAT INCLUDES EIGHTH.
STILL, IN THE FIELDS OF IPS AND DIRECT REPROGRAM-MING,
.....

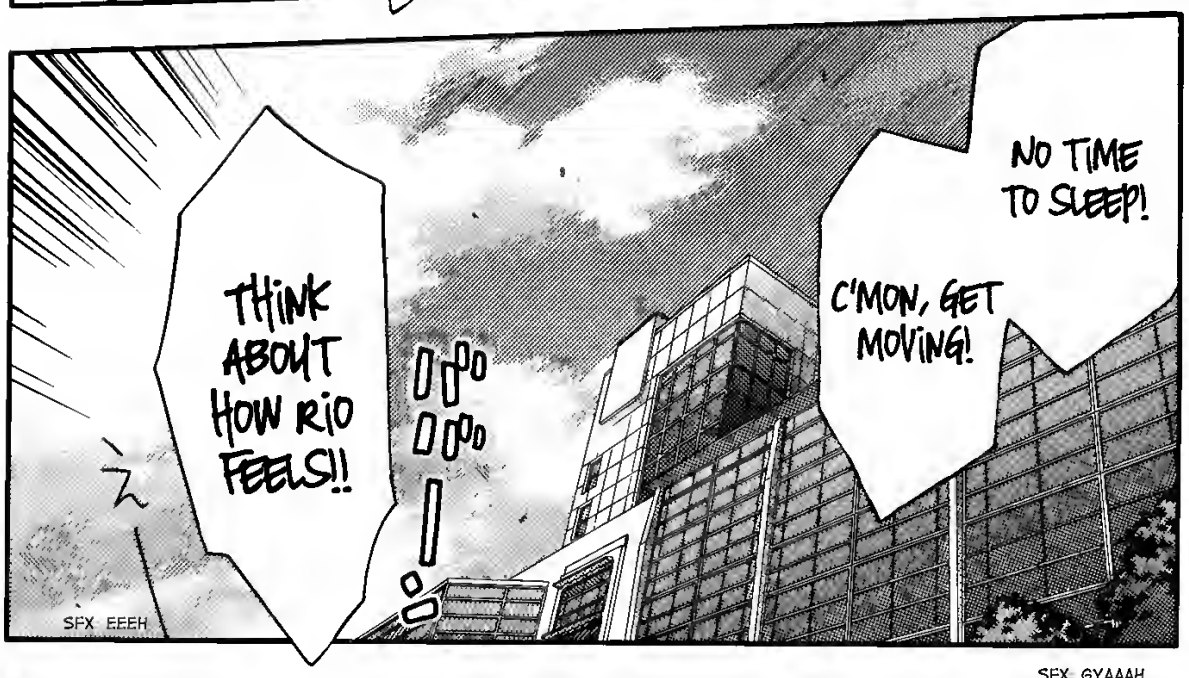
?
THAT'S NOT WHERE WE'D HOPE TO FIND IT.
I DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S A PETITION OF SIMILAR RESEARCH FROM ANY-WHERE, BUT
THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S MIRA.
GUARD? WHO?
IF OUR "GUARD" UNCOVERS SOMETHING, I'D LIKE PERMIS-SION TO TAKE MEASURES.
OKAY, THEN HOW...
... YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT. WITH THIS PARTICULAR THEFT, THERE'S NOBODY THAT STANDS TO PROFIT.
RESEARCH DATA IS VALUABLE, BUT DIFFI-CULT TO APPROPRIATE FROM OTHERS.
... STILL, WHY WOULD YOU GO THAT FAR?
AH, YES...

... THAT'S WHY THIS FEELS *WRONG*.
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING.
I WANT TO RECOVER THE STOLEN DATA ASAP.
UNDER-STOOD.
I WILL SEE TO IT.

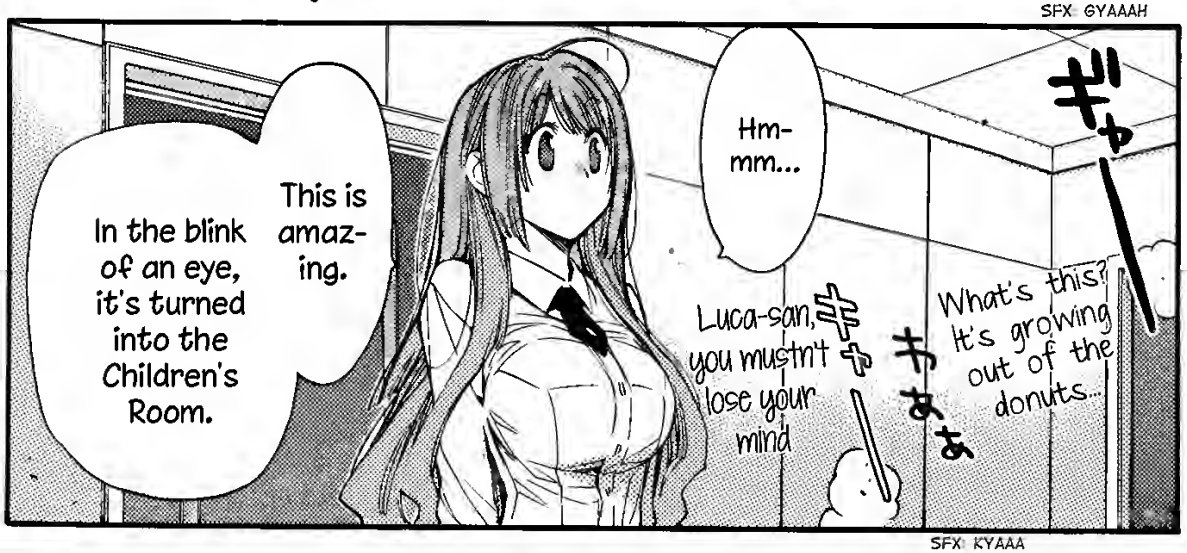
...HEY
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU WOKE UP.
NAOYA, LUCA-SAN,
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SFX: STARTLED
WHOA... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN LUCA-SAN LOOK SLEEPY.
WA AH!
AH, SPEAKING OF WHICH --
SFX: STARTLED X2


Yeah.
LUCA-SAN, GOOD MORNING.
Man, he startled me...
.....
SFX: BONK
OUCH!
!?
SFX: STARTLED
.....
WHOA, HEY, YOU WAKE UP!
I'm going to sleep for a little longer, so I woke you up.
I saw a hallucination...
WHAA?!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
WHAT?!

SFX: HERE WE GO!
どっせーい！
キャー
コロコロ
YOU JUST CAME BY AT THE WRONG MOMENT! I'VE BEEN WORKING MY BUTT OFF!
WE CAME TO SEE YOU, TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT SLACKING OFF.
CELCIA, TOO... WHY ARE YOU HERE?
また…
HUH...? HIKARU, AGAIN...



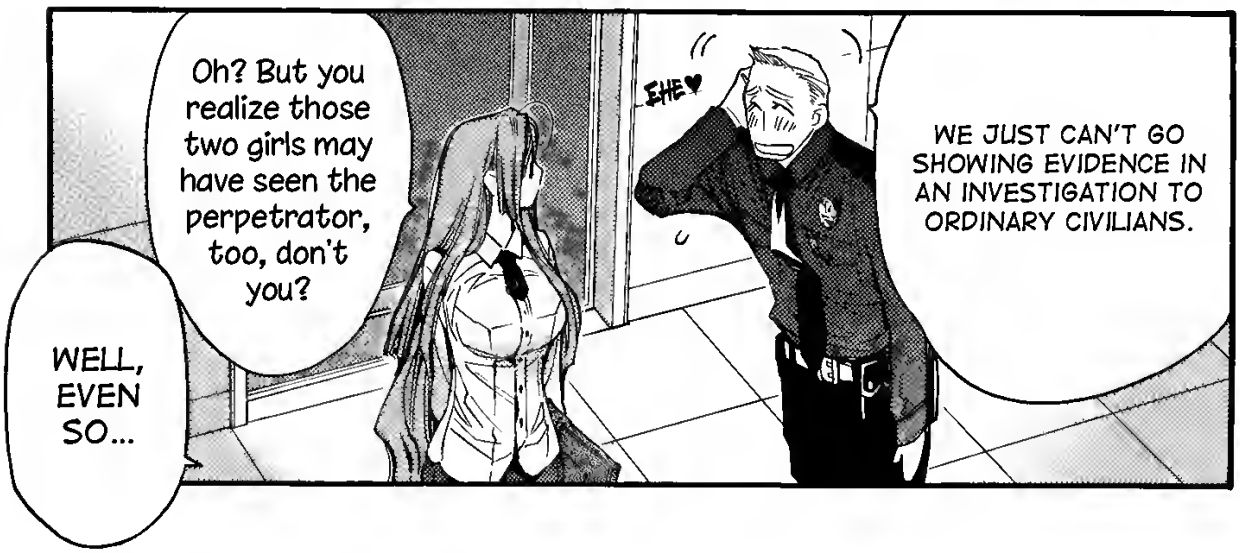
SFX: GYAAAH

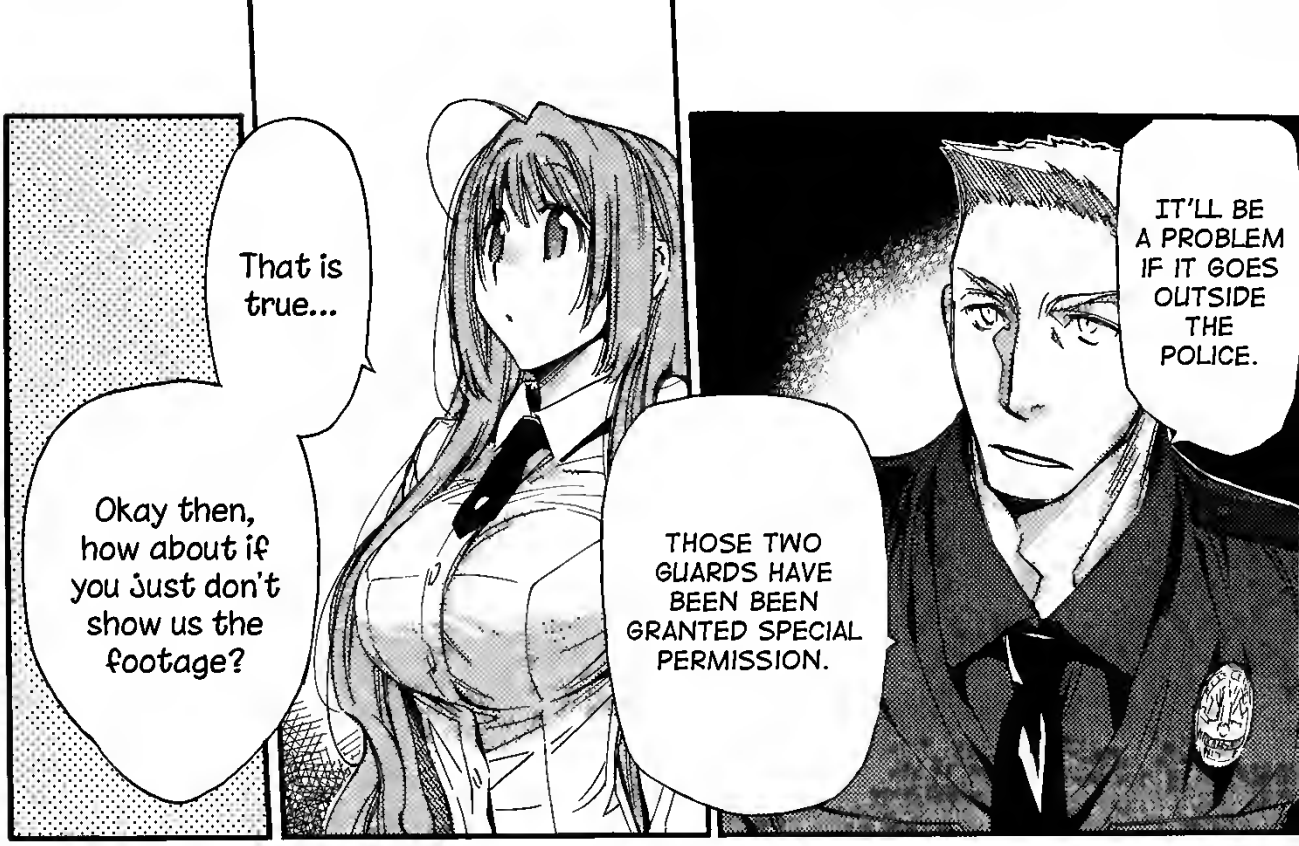

ギャー
Hm-mm...
This is amazing.
In the blink of an eye, it's turned into the Children's Room.
Luca-san, you mustn't lose your mind
What's this? It's growing out of the donuts...
キャあ

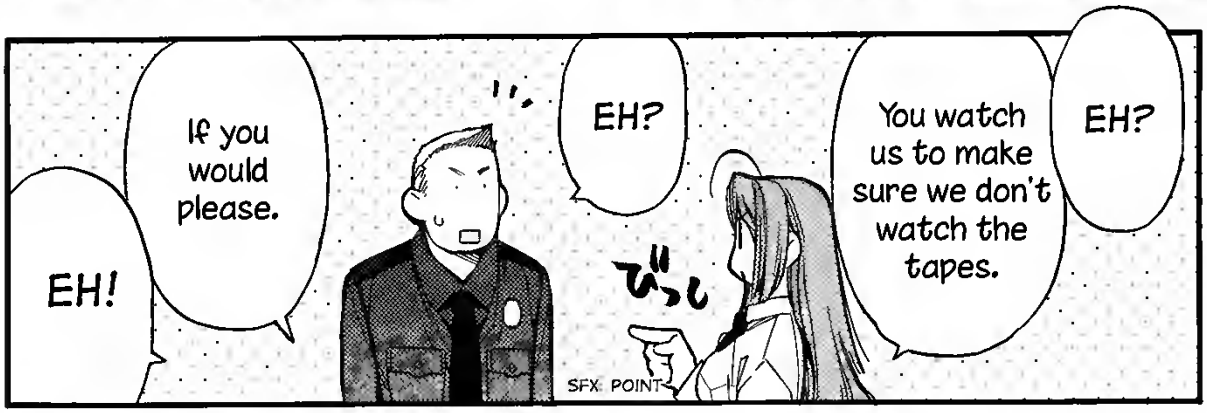
SFX: KYAAA

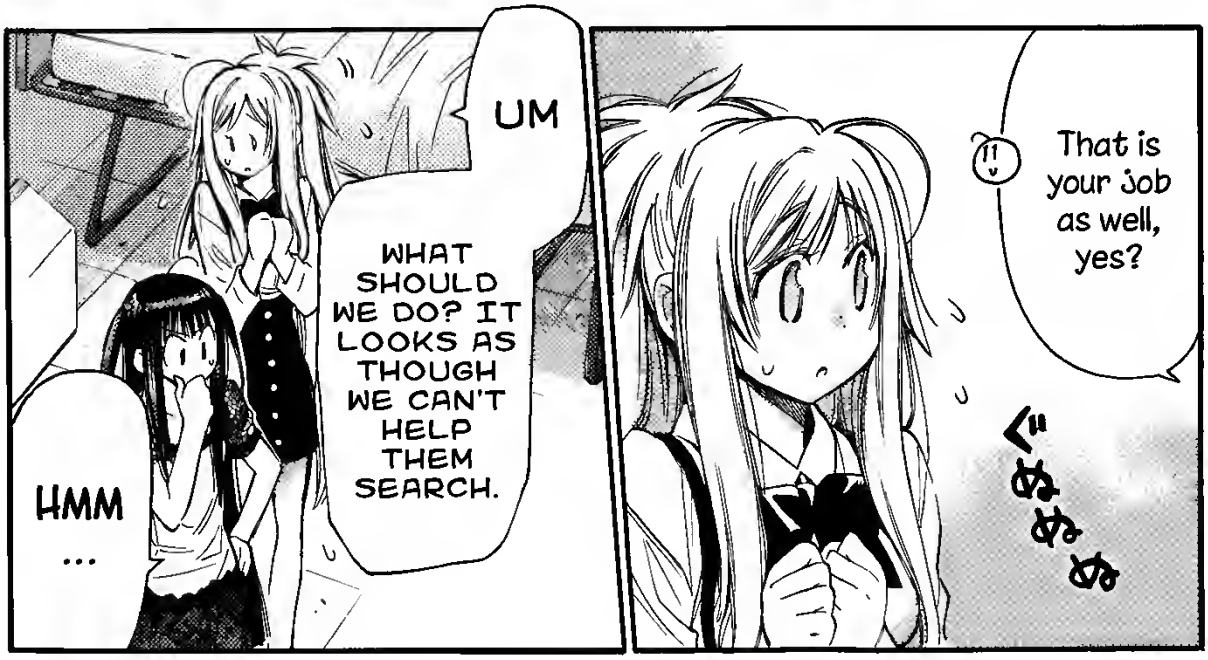
... It doesn't matter where they are.
Not really.

NO.
THIS WON'T DO,
PLEASE LEAVE.


WE JUST CAN'T GO SHOWING EVIDENCE IN AN INVESTIGATION TO ORDINARY CIVILIANS.
EHE♥
Oh? But you realize those two girls may have seen the perpetrator, too, don't you?
WELL, EVEN SO...


That is true...
Okay then, how about if you just don't show us the footage?
THOSE TWO GUARDS HAVE BEEN BEEN GRANTED SPECIAL PERMISSION.
IT'LL BE A PROBLEM IF IT GOES OUTSIDE THE POLICE.


If you would please.
EH!
EH?
You watch us to make sure we don't watch the tapes.
EH?
SFX: POINT


UM
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? IT LOOKS AS THOUGH WE CAN'T HELP THEM SEARCH.
HMM ...
That is your job as well, yes?

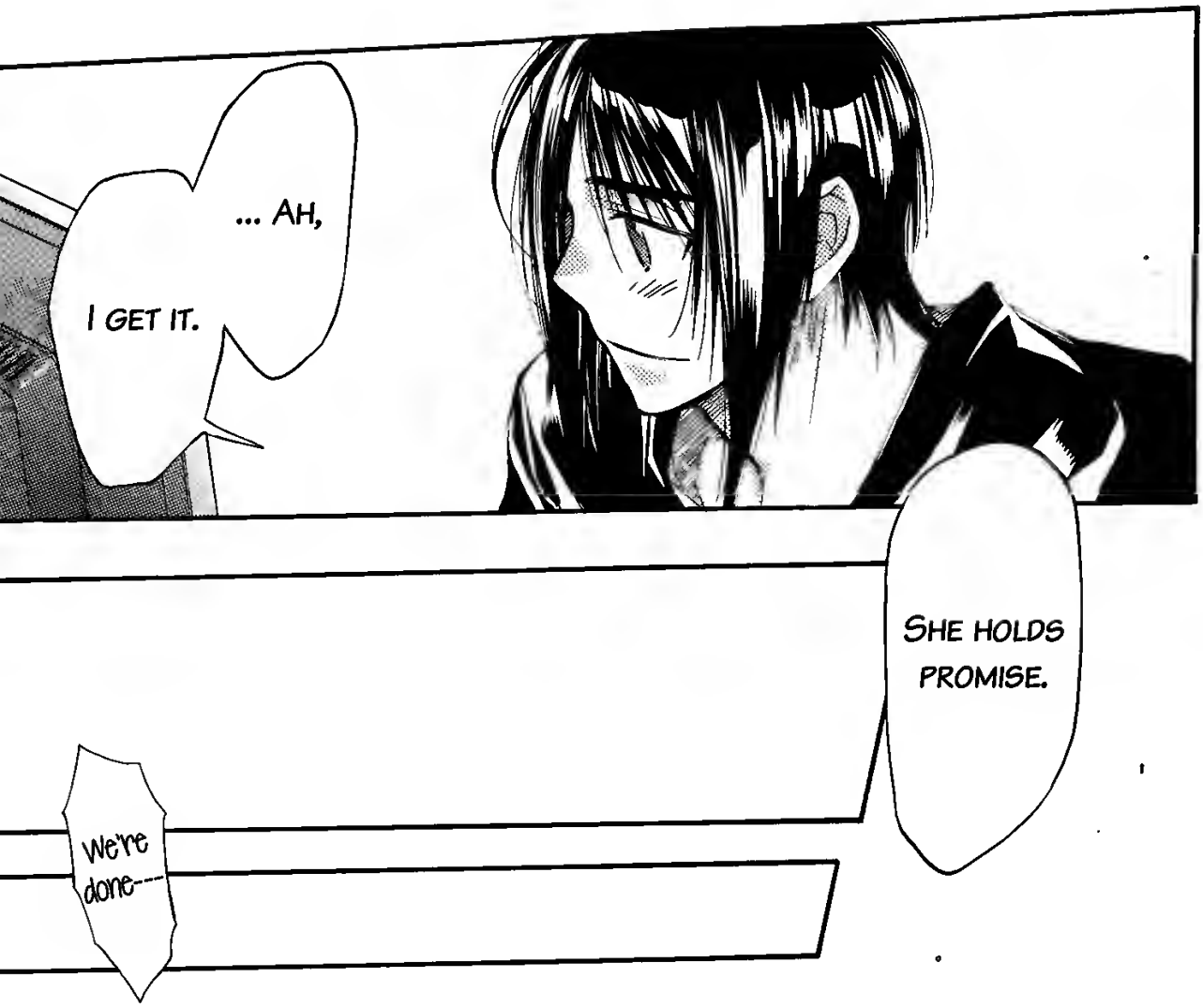
EEEH?!
I'M NOT ANY GOOD AT DRAWING...
COULD I COUNT ON YOU TO DRAW A PORTRAIT?
tap tap
so tired---
AH, TRUE. THEN IN THAT CASE,

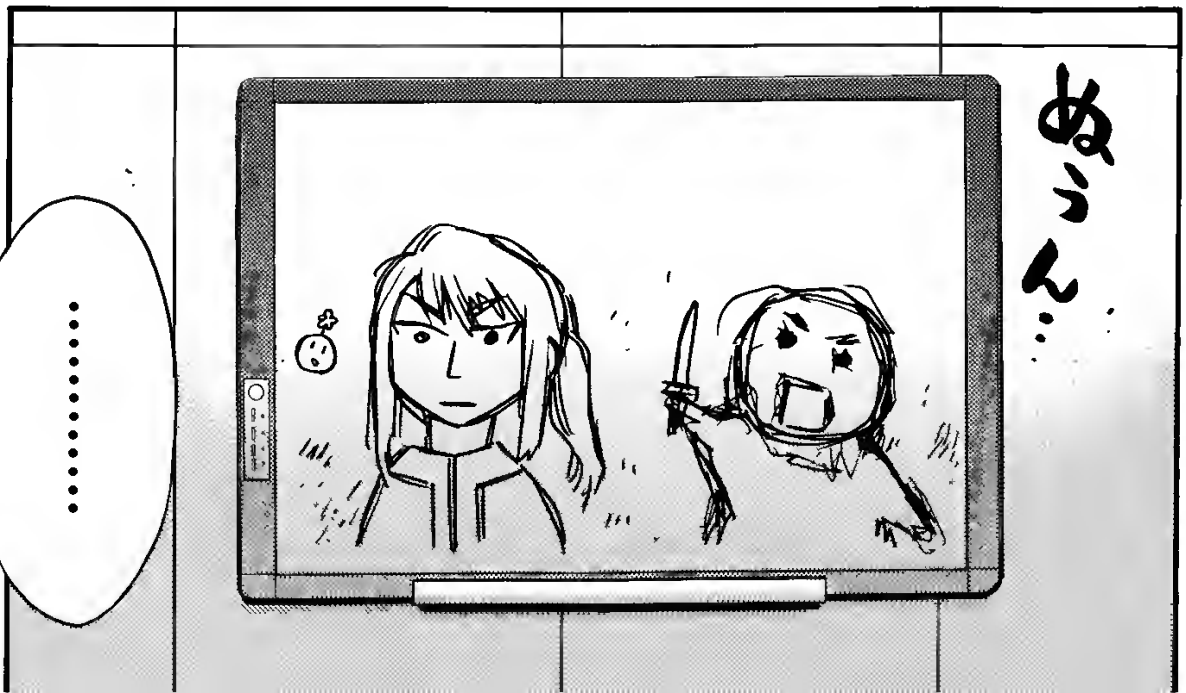
I'LL DO IT!
ビク

SFX: STUNNED

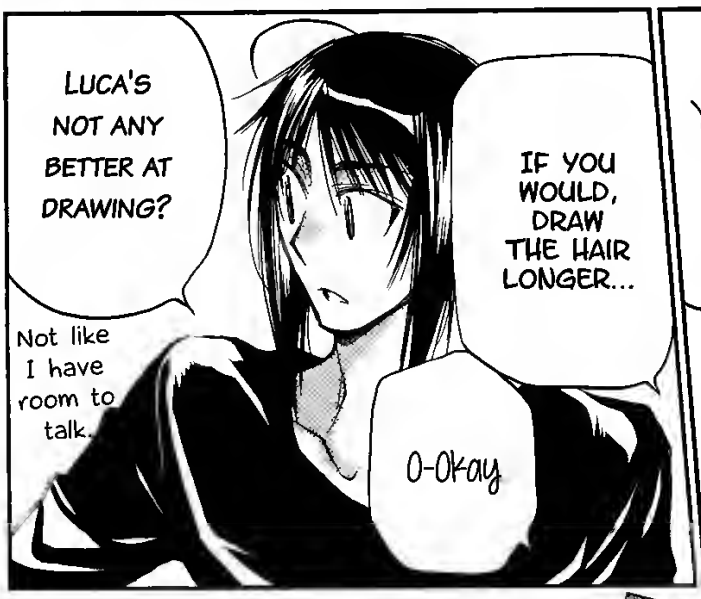
A... All right...
AND HIKARU-SAN WILL TOO!

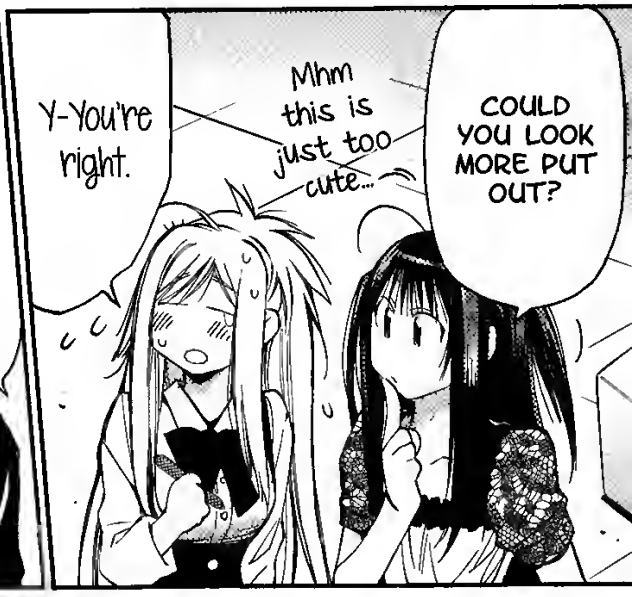
Guess we're too short...
It's because it's all for Rio.
Drawing with such high tension...
... What's up, Celcia?
SFX: MMM... ER...
SFX: SQUEEE...
Hm?
I can't allow her hands to be soiled in vain.
She herself is resolved.
... She is a strong person, by nature.


... AH,
I GET IT.
SHE HOLDS PROMISE.
We're done----


むぅん…
……

SFX I'M SO SORRY...
ごめんなさい!!
IT'S THE TRUTH... NO MATTER WHAT I DO...!!
The knife on the right was there.
...
ER, YUP.
I'VE SEEN THE ONE ON THE LEFT.
AH...
...


LUCA'S NOT ANY BETTER AT DRAWING?
Not like I have room to talk.
IF YOU WOULD, DRAW THE HAIR LONGER...
O-Okay


Y-You're right.
Mhm this is just too cute...
COULD YOU LOOK MORE PUT OUT?

HM?
There is one thing that is on my mind right now.
I don't really care, but...

Wasn't it a disguise?
It's that---
.....
HUH?
That would be normal for a covert operative to do...
Of course, I kept that in mind as I watched the surveillance footage, but---

HUH?
I MET HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE?

WHERE WAS IT...
IT WAS WHITE CLOTHING... THE HOSPITAL?
NO, I TALKED TO HIM PERSONALLY---
iPS
とほほー
Rio-san is the one who's good at drawing...
cry... Even though I'm older than she is...

I REMEM-
BER!
H...
Hey, get me the list of people at Eighth.
!?
And the footage from inside the com-pany.
Hurry!